

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IGA-02 MC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00
 ACDA-07 EB-07 /092 W
 -----121517Z 042504 /44

R 121430Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4465
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, LY
SUBJ: QADHAFI SPEECH ON AMERICAN EVACUATION DAY

1. SUMMARY. IN TWO-HOUR SPEECH QADHAFI CONDEMNED PAST
"US IMPERIALISTIC" ATTACKS AGAINST LIBYA (US WAR AGAINST
BARBARY PRIATES), REAFFIRMED LIBYAN SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN
CAUSE AND ARAB BROTHERS CONFRONTING ZIONISM AND CALLED ON
US FOR IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A RAMBLING TWO HOUR SPEECH DELIVERED IN DERN A ON
11 JUNE, LIBYAN LEADER COLONEL MU-AMMAR AL-QADHAFI RECALLED
THE HISTORY OF "AMERICAN IMPERIALIST ATTACKS" ON DERN A IN
LATE MAY-EARLY JUNE 1805. QADHAFI REWROTE HISTORY TAKING
ISSUE WITH WESTERN HISTORIANS ACCOUNTS OF THE BATTLES WITH
THE "BARBARY PIRATES" AND CONTENTED THAT THE REAL PIRATES
WERE THE MEMBERS OF THE US FLEET WHO ATTACKED CITIES
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ALONG THE NORTH AFRICAN COAST, WHILE THE VALIANT
LIBYAN DEFENDERS OF DERN A WERE THE TRUE HEROES OF
THE "LIBYAN NATION." QADHAFI COMPARED THE "LIBYAN
VICTORY" OF 1805 AGAINST THE AMERICAN FLEET TO THE
VICTORIOUS EVACUATION OF THE AMERICAN BASE IN TRIPOLI
(FORMER WHEELUS) ON JUNE 11, 1970. HE FURTHER
LIKENED THE AMERICAN AGGRESSION OF THE EARLY

19TH CENTURY TO CONDITIONS IN 1977 WHEN THE US FLEET STILL FILLS THE MEDITERRANEAN JUST OFF LIBYA'S SHORES. QADHAFI TOOK ISSUE WITH WESTERN CLAIMS THAT LIBYA SUPPORTS INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, CLAIMING THAT LIBYA ONLY SUPPORTS JUST CAUSES FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION, PRIMARY AMONG THEM THE CAUSE OF THE PALESTINIANS. HE ARGUED THAT THE REAL INTERNATIONAL TERRORISTS OF 1977 WERE THE US-SPONSORED ZIONIST PRESENCE IN THE ARAB HOMELAND.

3. QADHAFI TOUCHED BRIEFLY ON REPORTS THAT TALKS WOULD BE CONDUCTED BETWEEN LIBYA AND EGYPT TO IMPROVE THEIR RELATIONS. HE STATED THAT THIS HAD COME AS A SUGGESTION FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE GENERAL PEOPLES' CONGRESS. HE CALLED THE TALKS A GOOD IDEA, A NATURAL THING FOR BROTHERLY ARABS TO DO, AND CONCLUDED THAT AT ANY RATE, IT WAS A BILATERAL MATTER FOR LIBYA AND EGYPT TO SORT OUT.

4. QADHAFI PLEDGED LIBYAN SUPPORT FOR THE GREAT ARAB CAUSE, AND PLACED ALL LIBYAN "MILITARY, ECONOMIC, MORAL AND SPIRITUAL" RESOURCES AT THE DISPOSAL OF EGYPT AND SYRIA TO COMBAT THE ZIONIST ENEMY. HE STATED THAT RESTORATION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS AND THE PALESTINIAN HOMELAND WAS THE SACRED DUTY OF ALL ARABS.

5. TURNING TO US-LIBYAN RELATIONS, QADHAFI ADMITTED THAT THERE WERE "PROBLEMS" BETWEEN LIBYA AND AMERICA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AT PRESENT. BUT HE SAID THAT THE USG HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO "REDUCE TENSIONS" BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES. HE STATED THAT THE NEW AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION HAD BEFORE IT A CHOICE: (1) TO CHANGE AMERICAN'S POLICY TOWARD LIBYA, OR (2) TO CONTINUE IN AMERICA'S CURRENT POLICY WHICH MEANT THE CONTINUATION OF THE CURRENT SITUATION. QADHAFI SUMMARIZED THE TWO BASIC OBSTACLES (AS HE SAW THEM) TO IMPROVED U-LIBYAN RELATIONS. FIRST, QADHAFI SAID HE HAD SUBMITTED THE NAME OF A CANDIDATE AS LIBYAN AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON, AS A MOVE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS. BUT, TO DATE, HE HAD HAD NO RESPONSE TO HIS NOMINATION FROM EITHER THE NEW ADMINISTRATION OR THE US CONGRESS. HE CHARACTERIZED THIS ABSENCE OF A RESPONSE AS TOTALLY WITHOUT LOGIC. SECOND, HE GAVE A BRIEF HISTORY OF LIBYA'S PURCHASE OF C-130 MILITARY TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT FROM THE US AND THE USG'S REFUSAL TO ALLOW DELIVERY OF THE AIRCRAFT AFTER LIBYA HAD ALREADY PAID FOR ITS "GOODS." QADHAFI POINTED OUT THAT THE BAN ON THE SALE OF THE C-130S

HAD BEEN PLACED THERE BY THE FORMER ADMINISTRATION
AND SAID HE HOPED THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WOULD RE-
CONSIDER THIS DECISION. QADHAFI REPEATED PREVIOUS
PUBLIC STATEMENT OF PRAISE FOR PRESIDENT CARTER AND
HIS HOPES THAT UNDER THE PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP US
RELATIONS WITH LIBYA AND OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD IMPROVE.

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6. HE STATED THAT LIBYA AND THE USSR HAVE GOOD
RELATIONS TODAY BECAUSE THE USSR WILL SELL LIBYA WHAT
IT NEEDS IN THE WAY OF MILITARY HARDWARE TO DEFEND
ITSELF. THE US, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAD TAKEN LIBYA'S
MONEY AND NOT DELIVERED "THE POSSESSIONS OF THE LIBYAN
PEOPLE." AGAIN, HE STATED THAT NO RESPONSE TO HIS
QUERIES ABOUT THE AIRCRAFT WAS NOT LOGICAL AND PROPOSED
TRANSFORMING THE PLANES INTO A CIVILIAN VERSION IF THE
US FEARED DELIVERING MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO LIBYA.

7. FOR AN ANTI-AMERICAN OCCASION QADHAFI WAS RELATIVELY
RESTRAINED AND CONTINUES SIGNAL NEW ADMINISTRATION OF
LIBYAN DESIRES FOR IMPROVEMENT. HE CLEARLY INDICATED
HE BELIEVES NEXT MOVE IS UP TO US AND THAT NON-ACCEPTANCE
LIBYAN AMBASSADOR AND NON-DELIVERY OF AIRPLANES STILL
CAUSING HIM CONSIDERABLE PAIN.

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